



New phase of Egypt's revolution

Masses say: No military rule

By Joyce Chediak

Record numbers of Egyptian voters of all ages and classes, women and men, cast ballots for a new parliament Nov. 28 and 29. Some waited in line for hours to vote in the first election of its kind in 50 years.

Many hoped that this vote would usher in a new era of democratic politics and economic reform. Others felt that the election was being manipulated by the military and Egypt's rich. But all knew that having this election at all was a victory won by the struggle in the streets some 10 months ago which brought down the Mubarak regime. And so people stepped forth to exercise this hard-won right to vote. It may be the only tangible gain of the revolution to date.

The elections are supposed to mark the beginning of civilian rule. But they come after Egypt's ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces announced it would yield little authority to the new parliament, and might claim permanent powers under a new constitution.

The elections follow nine days of angry protests by hundreds of thousands of Egyptians of all political persuasions in Cairo and other major cities. These protests targeted the military government for betraying the revolution and called for SCAF to immediately step down and be replaced by civilians.

The elections follow a separate deal struck between the Moslem Brotherhood and the military over the heads of the protesters. The deal legitimizes military rule until June 2012 and secures election dates favorable to the Brotherhood, considering its current lead in the polls.

Meanwhile, Washington is carefully trying to convince all sides that it favors them, so that no matter who

wins in the elections or in the streets, Egypt will remain in the pro-imperialist camp. U.S. imperialism, which has no permanent allies, only permanent interests, is well aware that events in Egypt reverberate throughout the Middle East.

New chant: 'The police & the army are one!'

The elections were preceded by nine days of the fiercest mass protests and street battles in the 10 months since President Hosni Mubarak was deposed. Demonstrators, enraged at the ruling military council for hijacking the revolution, fought back as they were attacked again and again by the hated security forces, which were as aggressive and humiliating as under Mubarak. This time the Egyptian army, formerly thought to be the guardian of the revolution, fought side by side with the police. Soldiers and police fired into the crowds.

As of Nov. 28, some 48 people have been killed and 3,100 wounded, most of them overwhelmed by the extensive use of U.S.-supplied extra-strong tear gas.

Ten months ago the demonstrators saw the army as their protector against the security police and jubilantly chanted, "The people and the army are one!" Now they angrily chant, "The police and the army are one."

Most political organizations — secular, Islamist, left, youth and liberal — came out nationally in the hundreds of thousands starting Nov 18 to oppose an announcement by the military that it would retain decisive power over a civilian government.

This announcement was just the last straw. SCAF has never repealed the hated emergency laws. Some 12,000 protesters were quickly tried by the military and given harsh sentences, but SCAF repeatedly delays bringing

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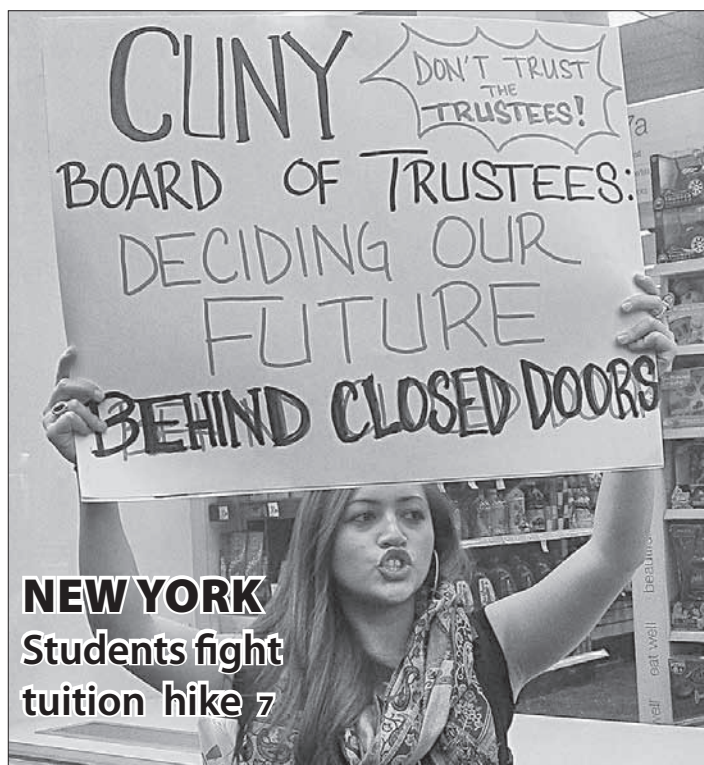
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WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

LOS ANGELES

Police shut down
Occupy Los Angeles
using force, Nov.
30 at 4:45 a.m. and
arrest over 200
people. Go to
www.workers.org
for updates.

WW PHOTO: JOHN PARKER



OCCUPY PHILADELPHIA

As we go to press,
police shut down
Occupy Philadelphia
Nov. 30. Read the article
on the issues leading up
to this attack on page 4.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

ALABAMA
Black movement backs
immigrant rights 6



WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

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From death row Mumia Abu-Jamal on

‘From state pens to Penn State’

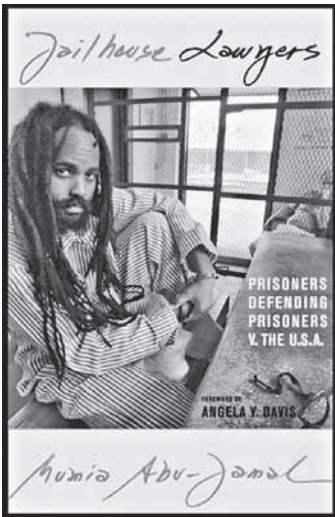
Taken from a Nov. 13, 2011, audio column at www.prisonradio.org.

The shocking child sex scandal rocking Penn State University in State College, Pa., is an explosion of almost nuclear proportions. It has all the elements designed to produce a media firestorm: fame, money, illicit sex, deception and yes, betrayal. But the core of it is betrayal of the country’s deepest religion — sports. And of those whom we claim to adore and revere the most — children. The scandal has shown how great wealth, fame and the business of college sports corrupted everything and everyone, to keep the gravy train rolling. And the Penn State football program was (and is) an extremely lucrative gravy train, bringing in tens of millions of dollars in

fees from TV, advertising and sports paraphernalia sales. Penn State University itself is the biggest employer in State College, and is one of the 10 biggest colleges in the U.S. with over 45,000 students. The gravy here flowed thick and heavy. And like other great, wealth-making and powerful institutions, its sins were covered so as not to rock the money-making boat. It reminds us of the great scandals that shook the foundations of the Catholic Church in the 1990s, the ripples of which are still with us. They remind us that rape is about power and sex is but a tool of domination of the weak by the powerful. That same dynamic is at work whether it’s a man and a woman; a priest and a child; or a coach and a boy. But is it the same when it’s two men? How about when one man is a prison guard, and another is a prisoner?

When news leaked out several months ago that rapes were widespread in the blocks of the state prison in Pittsburgh, Pa., the reaction was largely local, mostly concentrated in Western Pennsylvania. Here it has all the dynamics of the rape culture we’ve discussed — powerful against powerless. Indeed, in some respects it’s more pronounced, for systems are in place to protect women and children (whether they’re followed or not is another question), which necessitates hiding these things. But in prison, the indicted guard, Harry Nicoletti, allegedly used his power as a state prison official to threaten the men he raped and abused with being sent to the ‘hole’ and death if they told. He reportedly ordered prisoners to contaminate food with spit, urine and feces. He punched, slapped and spat on prisoners. He used racist language with abandon. And these things happened for years. Schools, churches and prisons — institutions of immense social power, exploiting, abusing and hurting the powerless — in the places which seemingly attract rapeholics.

Source: *The Pittsburgh-based Human Rights Coalition at www.hrcoalition.org.*



Available at: freemumia.com/?page_id=60 and bookstores around the country

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Workers World
55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

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Closing date: Nov. 21, 2011
Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson
West Coast Editor: John Parker
Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, Jaimeson Champion, G. Dunkel, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac
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Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

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ALL OUT FOR MUMIA
Fri., DEC. 9 • Philadelphia

The 30th anniversary of his incarceration and frame up

Having survived two execution orders and 30 years on death row in solitary confinement, never being able to touch his dying mother or sister, his spouse, children or grandchildren (let alone anyone else, other than the prison guards who handcuff and shackle him), Mumia Abu-Jamal, an innocent man, now faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life in prison.

Even though by the courts’ rulings, Mumia should never have been sentenced to death in the first place; should never have spent one day on death row, as his 30 years on death row were in blatant violation of the Constitution; those who have for those 30 years wanted to “fry Mumia,” now simply want him to rot in prison for the rest of his life. The prosecution, resigned to the defeat of their decades-long strategy thanks to the powerful and consistent international movement of resistance — which has held on over these many years — is now saying, “Okay, let him go into general population and let’s close the chapter on this case that has caused us so much embarrassment.”

We say this is totally unacceptable: the only justice that can be applied at this point, after 30 years of Mumia’s confinement on death row and the torture of isolation, is Mumia’s immediate release.

On December 9 — on the eve of International Human Rights Day — hundreds will rally at Philadelphia’s National Constitution Center demanding freedom for Mumia and all political prisoners, abolition of the death penalty, an end to mass incarceration and police terrorism, and in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street.

Constitution Center, 525 Arch St., Philadelphia
7:30 p.m. sharp to 10:30 p.m., (doors open at 7 p.m.)

- No to life in prison, free Mumia now!!!
- No to the racist death penalty, no to the prison industrial complex,
- No to police terrorism, no to U.S. wars at home and abroad,
- Free all political prisoners, Occupy Wall Street
- Hear: Cornel West, Immortal Technique, Ramona Africa, Vijay Prashad, Michelle Alexander (by video), Amina & Amiri Baraka, IMPACT Youth Repertory, African Drum & Dance Ensemble, Attorney Michael Coard

Pick up palm cards at Solidarity Center, 55 W. 17th St., 5th Floor, 212-633-6646 anytime after 2 p.m. weekdays. Call 212-330-8029 for bus tickets & other locations for pickup of palm cards. Buses leave NYC at 3 p.m. from 33rd St. and 8th Ave., \$20 round trip.

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National Office
55 W. 17 St.
New York, NY 10011
212-627-2994
wwp@workers.org
Atlanta
P.O. Box 5565
Atlanta, GA 30307
404-627-0185
atlanta@workers.org
Baltimore
c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443-909-8964
baltimore@workers.org
Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617-522-6626
Fax 617-983-3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
367 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-883-2534
buffalo@workers.org
Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
chicago@workers.org
Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216-738-0320
cleveland@workers.org
Denver
denver@workers.org
Detroit
5920 Second Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313-459-0777
detroit@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
331 W. Main St., Ste. 408
Durham, NC 27701
durham@workers.org
Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713-503-2633
houston@workers.org
Los Angeles
1905 Rodeo Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
la@workers.org
323-515-5870
Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org
Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610-931-2615
phila@workers.org

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org
Rochester, N.Y.
585-436-6458
rochester@workers.org
San Diego
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
619-692-0355
sandiego@workers.org
San Francisco
2940 16th St., #207
San Francisco
CA 94103
415-738-4739
sf@workers.org
Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org
Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300
Washington, DC 20037
dc@workers.org

Indigenous people, supporters honor Day of Mourning

By Workers World Boston bureau

Several hundred people came to Plymouth, Mass., on Nov. 24 to commemorate the 42nd annual National Day of Mourning. Celebrated by some as “thanksgiving” Thursday, this is a day when Native people and their supporters stand together and refuse to give thanks for the genocide and theft of lands caused as a result of the European invasion of Indigenous lands, in Plymouth and elsewhere.

Speakers this year included Moonanum James, Mahtowin Munro, Juan Gonzalez, Marina Diaz, Tiokasin Ghosthorse, Bert Waters, Grandmother Lizzie Walker and Stephanie Hedgecoke.

James, co-leader of United American Indians of New England, spoke about the history of the National Day of Mourning: “Those who started Day of Mourning in 1970 spoke of terrible racism and poverty. Racism is still alive and well. Our people are still mired in the deepest poverty. Whether on or off the reservation, we still mostly lack decent health care, education and housing. Our youth suicide rates, our rates of alcoholism, continue to be the highest in the nation. As the economy crumbles around us, these conditions only continue to worsen.” [Read full speech at www.workers.org]

The crowd laughed when James stated that the Pilgrims were the original “1 percent” to arrive in the New England area. Tiokasin Ghosthorse also drew a laugh and cheers when he said, “Everybody wants a piece of the American pie, but you need to remember that it is OUR bakery!”

The Occupy movement was on many people’s minds, and people from Occupy Boston, Occupy Wall Street and Occupy New Haven were among those in attendance.

Munro, co-leader of UAINE, spoke about how “the word ‘occupy’ has a different meaning for Native and other oppressed people ... because that is what imperialists do when they colonize our land. They occupy us. Our Indigenous lands are already occupied; Palestine and Puerto Rico and many other places were re-occupied. So that word ‘occupy’ can push some buttons, since we feel as though our lands actually need to be unoccupied or de-occupied or decolonized.”

She also discussed how corporations are attempting to occupy every bit of the earth and skies, and added that the ruling class also tries to occupy people’s minds.

Munro concluded that “the word ‘occupy’ has been reclaimed by militant workers from Egypt, Mexico and many other places to describe occupations of factories, schools and neighborhoods. Indigenous people have in the past occupied Alcatraz and occupied the BIA [Bureau of Indian Affairs] building. Further, some of the Occupy cities, including Occupy/Decolonize Boston, have taken the important step of expressing their solidarity with Indigenous peoples and seeking Indigenous participation, acknowledging that decolonization needs to be part of the dialogue, not just occupation.” [Full speech at www.workers.org] UAINE has supported the Occupy/Decolonize movement and called on other activists to do so as well.



PHOTO: ALBERTO BARRETO CARDONA

Gonzalez opened and closed the day with prayers and carried a message from the Council of Maya Elders: “Let the truth be told: we the indigenous people of Centro America, Sur America, Mexico, are not illegal immigrants in this land known today as United States. ... We are exiled here because of the brutal political and economic imperialist policies of the USA in our homelands for more than 100 years ... imposing and supporting dictators; financing murderous armies; trafficking drugs and weapons; money laundering; robbing our natural resources; sponsoring ethnic cleaning; corrupting our way of life; spoiling our future. Why do you close your eyes to the genocide against the Indigenous peoples of the Americas?”

Marina Diaz, a Guatemalan woman from the New York May 1 Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights, spoke of

the difficulties encountered by Indigenous people who immigrate to the United States because of the destruction of their home economies by U.S. neoliberal policies. Grandmother Walker spoke of going to the United Nations to demand rights for Indigenous peoples and nations. Hedgecoke told the crowd about an August victory in the shell mound struggle in California, where Indigenous people and their allies successfully fought to stop the planned destruction of an ancient coastal sacred burial site, Sagorea Tea, at Glen Cove.

After marching through the streets of Plymouth and having a brief rally at the site of Plymouth Rock, “a monument to racism and oppression” according to James, many of the people who attended the National Day of Mourning sat down and had a true thanksgiving feast together. □

Leonard Peltier:

‘Everyone is feeling colonized’

Once again, the organizers of the National Day of Mourning dedicated the day to Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier. Peltier was framed up by the FBI and has been wrongfully imprisoned since 1976.

Tiokasin Ghosthorse spoke and read an update from the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee:

In September, as you know, Leonard was transferred to USP Coleman in central Florida. His conditions initially appeared to be an improvement over the penitentiary in Lewisburg, but now it seems his living conditions may indeed be much worse. For example, Leonard still isn’t being allowed visitors. Family members have to reapply to be put on Leonard’s visitors list. Even the attorneys, for the first time, have to be put on his visitors list. The attorneys have another level of approval to navigate, as well, but are finding it difficult to contact prison officials to make all the necessary arrangements. It took one attorney over one month to gain access to his client. Leonard is being isolated as never before.

In addition, Leonard isn’t being allowed to monitor his blood sugar even though he has diabetes. He has told us the chaplain won’t allow supplies needed for Native ceremonies to enter the prison.

Leonard also isn’t being allowed to paint.

Leonard should be placed in a unit with other older prisoners, but Coleman has Leonard listed as being 57 years of age when, in fact, he is 67 years old. All of Leonard’s prison records over these many years clearly indicate his correct date of birth.

Leonard currently doesn’t have access to a phone or e-mail. He has to pay for those services, but he doesn’t have access to his commissary account (a disciplinary measure taken by USP Lewisburg that has carried over to Coleman).

Message from Leonard Peltier

The crowd of several hundred listened quietly as elder Bert Waters read a message from Leonard Peltier to those attending NDOM:

Greetings to all my friends, relations and supporters.

Well, it’s that time of year again, the time when America celebrates its fantasy about Indians and pilgrims. This is truly a day of mourning. So many paid so dear a price so that the People may live.

As an Indian man, this national “day of giving thanks” leaves so much to be desired. Like many of you, I think a seasonal recounting of the truth is in order.

Perhaps we can call these truths the seven deadly Indian sins.

Fact — The first documented Thanksgiving was the celebration of an Indian massacre. Ask any Pequot.

Fact — Even the feast that is celebrated was followed by genocide, with those Indian participants and their descendants being virtually wiped out within a generation. Ask any Wampanoag.

Fact — Ninety-eight percent of American Indians, perhaps 150 million of our relations, were killed by the onset of reservation times. This is the largest holocaust in the history of the world.

Fact — Once on the reservation, our children were stolen and sent to boarding schools or adopted out. Many of them were abused. Some were never heard from again.

Fact — Reservation-bound Indian women were commonly sterilized without their knowledge or consent.

Fact — The life span for American Indians continues to be much shorter than for other Americans.

Fact — We continue to live with substandard housing, education and health care.

For this, we’re supposed to celebrate? I don’t think so.



If Indians can be so marginalized, it can happen to anyone. We’ve said this for generations. Now, it seems most everyone is feeling colonized.

In a time when corporate greed is so evident and 99 percent are falling behind, and in the Indian tradition of sacrifice, I ask all of you to observe a day of “(Un) thanksgiving.” Fast. Donate your meal to a person in need instead. In this America, there are forgotten people everywhere who could use a good, hot meal. Helping others in need is the noblest practice of a truly thankful nation.

If the occupiers of America’s cities could do this, instead of participating in the overindulgence so common to the 1 percent, how much good might be done?

Fasting and praying is a powerful way for all of us to become centered, too.

I remain an Indigenous political prisoner. My sacrifice is for my People. If between the football games and turkey and dressing, you can remember me and those like me, I will be thankful as well.

May Wakan Tanka bless and keep you. Mitakuye Oyasin (all my relations).

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse, Leonard Peltier

West Coast port blockade planned for Dec. 12

By Dave Welsh
Oakland, Calif.

Organizing is under way for a coordinated mass blockade of West Coast ports on Monday, Dec. 12, targeting “Wall Street on the waterfront” — the major companies owned and controlled by “the 1 percent” ruling elite.

Initiated by Occupy Oakland, the Dec. 12 West Coast port shutdown is being jointly organized by Occupy movements in Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle and other ports along the coast. The multiport shutdown has three main objectives:

- 1) Solidarity with longshore workers in Longview, Wash., who are facing vicious police and state repression in their struggle to preserve the union there. These workers are fighting a union-busting transnational combine called EGT that is 51 percent owned by Bunge Ltd. — part of the Wall Street-backed grain cartel that controls most of the world’s trade in food products. EGT has hired scabs to break the jurisdiction of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in an attempt

- to drive down the price of labor on the docks and destroy the union.
 - 2) Solidarity with independent truckers and other workers in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, targeting SSA, an anti-union port terminal operator majority owned by Goldman Sachs, the notorious Wall Street investment bank.
 - 3) In response to the brutal, nationally coordinated police attacks on the Occupy movement organized by the 1 percent and their agents in government. “Now we will strike back,” read an Occupy Oakland statement, “with our own coordinated attack on the 1 percent — a West Coast port blockade and shutdown on Dec. 12th to economically disrupt Wall Street on the waterfront.”
- The West Coast Occupy movements are taking inspiration from the general strike and port blockade in Oakland on Nov. 2 when 30,000 people marched into the port and shut it down. No cargo was loaded or unloaded on the evening shift. Ships at dock lay idle, as ILWU rank-and-file workers, following the great traditions of their union, honored the picket lines at every terminal.

‘New wing of the labor movement’

Occupy Seattle gave some reasons why they are participating on Dec. 12: “We are inspired by longshore workers’ direct actions against EGT, we are angered by the repression they are facing by the cops and courts, and we know that if the 1 percent busts the ILWU they will try to drive down all of our wages and working conditions next. ...

“Many of us are the 89 percent of U.S. workers who are not in unions ... who are unemployed, underemployed, students, houseless,” continued the Occupy Seattle statement. “Our picket lines might not have the same legal standing as official union picket lines, but when the unions first started picketing back in the day they were also considered illegitimate. ... Dec. 12 is the first of many actions that Occupy will take as a new wing of the labor movement.”

‘The 1 percent use police to silence the 99 percent’

Occupy LA explained that “the 1 percent are depriving port truckers and other workers of decent pay, working condi-

tions and the right to organize. ... The 1 percent pursued a conscious policy of deindustrialization, resulting in trade at the port being seven containers coming in for every one container going out. They have driven migrant workers into a super-exploited gray market economy. ... The 1 percent use police brutality and repression, jails and prisons to suppress, divide and try to silence the 99 percent and all who oppose their insatiable greed.

“To put an end to all that,” read the Occupy LA statement, “we call on the 99 percent to boycott and occupy the port on Dec. 12 for full legalization [of immigrant families], good jobs for all, equality and justice. Port drivers and other workers have the power to push forward the kind of change we need.” Occupy LA also voted to build for a general strike they are calling to take place on May 1, 2012.

The first flyer for Dec. 12 conveyed the boldness and fighting spirit of this young movement. It read: “Shut the West Coast down! Together we are unstoppable!” For more information, visit www.westcoast-portshutdown.org. □

Protesters hold series of brief bank occupations on Wall Street

By Tony Murphy
New York

When New York City mayor, Michael Bloomberg, effectively ended the Occupy Wall Street encampment at Zuccotti Park on Nov. 15, many wondered if the movement had been weakened.

Just two days later, several actions took place on the “Historic Day of Action for the 99 Percent.” Thousands of New Yorkers rallied at the Stock Exchange. Later that day, thousands more occupied a building near the New School. That afternoon, more than 32,000 people marched from Foley Square across the Brooklyn Bridge.

It is clear that regardless of location, the Occupy movement is alive and well. OWS has not only survived, it has given birth to a new movement and is encouraging more people to get out on the streets.

One of the formations inspired by the

Occupy movement is the Occupy 4 Jobs Network, which held its first actions in New York City and Philadelphia on Nov. 23 to protest against the fraudulent congressional “super committee,” whose goal it was to cut \$1.2 trillion over 10 years from the federal budget, which would harm working and poor people.

During the New York action, Larry Holmes, Occupy 4 Jobs organizer, told Reuters television, “We’ve got 30 million people in this country who are either unemployed or underemployed and they need jobs. And so we’re here to say that from now on, until the government begins dealing with that painful reality, unemployed people and their supporters are going to start occupying things.” He stressed, “We left our calling card.” (Nov. 23)

Occupy 4 Jobs was launched at a meeting in the South Bronx at Hostos Community College on Nov. 2. The initial call



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

stated its explicit debt to and inspiration from OWS and its goal of opening up a new front: the struggle against the jobs crisis. The organization is calling for a massive public works program and the right to a job or income.

In its first New York actions last week, Occupy 4 Jobs, joined by members of the Occupy Wall Street Working Group on Unemployment and the Bail Out the People Movement, held a series of brief bank occupations in the Wall Street area.

Protesters gathered at Zuccotti Park with placards that said, “Occupy Wall Street for Jobs!” “Congress, 1% — Take Your Deficit and Shove It!” and “We Want Work — And We’re Fighting Mad.”

The group then headed down Broadway. Twenty protesters headed into a Citibank branch, chanting, “Money for jobs, not for banks!” and “No jobs, no peace!” When half a dozen “community affairs” cops entered the bank, the protesters left and headed to a Chase branch.

After police presence increased at Chase, only two activists were able to get into the bank. The rest rallied in the ATM area. Nevertheless, the bank manager closed the branch before the posted closing time, and called to a “white-shirt” cop, a member of the police brass, to join the other cops to get the two protesters to leave.

The demonstrators then headed further south on Broadway towards the huge, metal, Wall Street bull sculpture. By this time, motorcycle cops had arrived and lined the edge of the march. The protesters then reversed course and went north on Broadway to a Fidelity Savings branch. Cops blocked this entrance completely. Wall Street was to experience no further mini-occupations that night.

These mini-occupations displayed the militant and flexible tactics that Occupy 4 Jobs will be employing in the fight for jobs.

The organization’s original call said, “Occupations need not be the only tactic of the Occupy 4 Jobs Network. The word ‘occupy’ has now taken on a broader meaning than its literal definition. ‘Occupy’ now means ‘fight back.’ It means self-determination, and in the words of Malcolm X, it means fighting ‘by any means necessary.’”

For news of upcoming actions, see www.occupy4jobs.org. □

Occupy Philly threatened with eviction

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Nov. 27 — Day 53 of Occupy Philly has turned into a showdown between the protesters and the police, since the city threatened to evict activists at 5 p.m. It’s now 10 p.m. and the people’s mic remains strong at Dilworth Plaza outside City Hall.

After days of threats to evict and efforts by the city to divide and conquer by sowing disunity and supporting compromising groups against everyone else, the struggle to stand up to the state has created an amazing unity. At an open people’s mic to express “my dream,” participants in the occupy movement spoke up one after another to express the kind of world they would like to see — mostly a world without capitalism.

Most of the people speaking up were young people who want to see a world with opportunities for employment that is not exploitative; where jobs are for the benefit of society, not just for the profit of the bosses; where people can be creative,



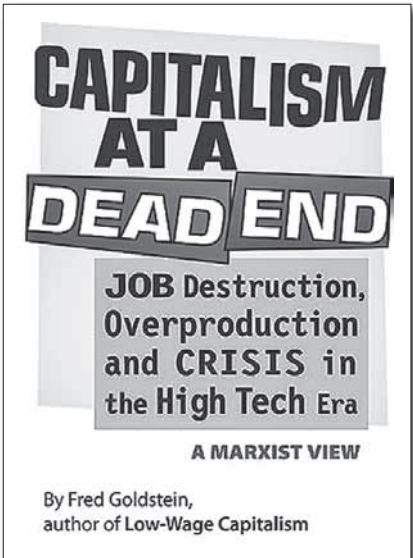
WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Critical of the upcoming massive slashing of community programs by Congress, ‘Jobs Not Cuts’ was the theme as a diverse crowd spoke out at Occupy Philly on Nov 23.

caring and work to benefit society. They want a world where borders are abolished; where war is a thing of the past; and where the environment is no longer threatened by corporate greed.

The police, acting on behalf of the bankers and the business community, may succeed in tearing down the tents and arresting the people who have chosen to stay, but they cannot stop this movement.

Visit www.workers.org for updates.



www.LowWageCapitalism.org
www.workers.org/books

Manitowoc, Wis. workers strike

Shown are members of the International Association of Machinists Lodge 516 on the picket line at the world headquarters of the Manitowoc Co. in Manitowoc, Wis. The workers at Manitowoc Co. make construction cranes that are used in 26 countries.

About 200 members of IAM Local 516 walked off the job Nov. 14 after rejecting a union-busting contract proposal by a margin of 183 to 3 and voting 181 to 2 to authorize a strike. The company's "freedom to choose" proposal, which would make the company an open shop, "left us no choice but to reject the contract," said Ben Elizondo, union representative.

After IAM 516 members

went on strike, the company laid off all members of the boilermakers union at the main plant. These workers, along with other workers and community supporters, have been walking the picket line in solidarity with their IAM sisters and brothers.

Solidarity for the striking workers is growing but more support is needed. Supporters can join the picket line from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. The picket line is on 30th Street between Viebahn and Dewey streets in Manitowoc. For more information: www.iamlodge516.org/.

— Report and photo by
Bryan G. Pfeifer



Detroit's economic crisis heightens tensions

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has threatened the city of Detroit with a financial review that could lead to the appointment of an "emergency manager" who would have the power to make drastic changes in the way the municipality operates. Snyder, a conservative Republican, said that he was not impressed with the way in which the corporate-backed mayor, Dave Bing, is handling the ongoing economic crisis that has resulted in an over-\$300-million budget deficit.

Snyder expected a request from Bing to conduct a financial review of the city, which is the first step in the appointment of an emergency manager. The emergency manager law was recently revised by the Republican-dominated state Legislature, which enhanced the previous law that was utilized in the 2009 takeover of the Detroit public schools.

The crisis has gained attention based on an Ernst & Young audit report that indicates that the city may "run out of cash" in a few months. The mayor's office and the City Council have refused to challenge the report or the governor's threats to appoint an emergency manager.

The majority of City Council members proposed layoffs of up to 2,300 municipal workers and further cutbacks in salaries and benefits. The mayor proposed 1,000 layoffs and more deep cuts in employee benefits.

The disagreement between the administration and the legislative body has also drawn the attention of the governor and state Legislature. Snyder says he has not received a letter requesting a review of Michigan's largest city's finances.

"We're going to encourage them [Detroit politicians] to get on the same page in a constructive way. I'm still waiting to see if I get a response from either the mayor or the city council first," Gov. Snyder told legislative correspondent Tim Skubick. (Detroit Free Press, Nov. 22) He also said that a financial review "just would start the process of asking for a preliminary review. My goal is to avoid a financial manager. I have no desire to see that happen."

Nonetheless, in Benton Harbor, a majority African-American city in the southwest region of the state, an emergency manager, Joe Harris, was appointed ear-

lier this year. Harris has created controversy there by essentially nullifying the mayor and City Commission's authority in the heavily impoverished municipality.

A previous law was utilized in the 2009 takeover of Detroit public schools. The appointment of two emergency managers in the schools has not resolved problems such as massive layoffs, school closings and overcrowded classrooms that have become an even more serious problem.

Emergency manager law challenged

With the advent of the new right-wing governor and state Legislature earlier this year, thousands demonstrated outside the capital in Lansing, demanding that this law and others which attack collective bargaining for public employees be rejected. These demonstrations coincided with protests in Wisconsin and Ohio, where workers and students fought to stave off a nationwide effort to virtually cripple public sector unions.

A coalition of community organizations, civil rights groups and public officials filed suit to overturn the emergency manager law and launched a petition

drive to place a referendum on the ballot in November 2012 designed to repeal these attacks. The coalition, Stand Up for Democracy, announced in late November that it had collected nearly enough signatures to place the referendum on the ballot and nullify the emergency management bill's implementation.

Brandon Jessup of Stand Up for Democracy told the Detroit Free Press, "We're getting very close to our 250,000 signature goal." The newspaper noted, "Once the signatures — about 162,000 — are turned in and certified, a process that could take two months, the law would be suspended until a vote." (Nov. 23)

It is not clear whether the existing law's suspension would require the state to revert to the previous one. If the current law is suspended, the emergency managers in Benton Harbor, Pontiac and Ecorse would lose their special authority, such as the capacity to abolish labor contracts.

Threats against Detroit show a national trend

If the governor and his collaborators are allowed to impose an emergency

manager, Detroit would become the largest city in recent times where elected officials would not control its finances. Birmingham, Ala., was forced into bankruptcy. In Harrisburg, Pa., a dispute exists among politicians and the courts over whether insolvency should be declared. Both of these situations illustrate the profound economic crises facing cities throughout the country.

The Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shut-offs called for the public to attend its meeting on Nov. 28 to discuss this burning issue in Detroit. The coalition rejects the emergency manager law and is urging the city administration to demand the return of state revenue sharing funds — more than \$200 million — from the state of Michigan.

The coalition says that there should be a halt to the payment of debt service to the banks and a request made to the federal government for a bailout of Detroit. These measures could provide temporary relief to the city, which is one of the hardest hit by the capitalist economic crisis. □

An honest conversation

A dialogue between a capitalist banker (CB) and an unemployed youth (UY) by Caleb Maupin.

CB: Thank you! Thank you!

UY: Why are you thanking me?

CB: Because you are unemployed, and that helps me a lot. Unemployment is a great thing.

UY: Why is that?

CB: For lots of reasons! It lowers wages. People who are desperate for work will accept much lower pay. I can even force the people who already work for me to take a pay cut and "stay competitive." The more people who are unemployed, the less pay people who have jobs will expect. As long as there are some people out there to keep buying, my profits will go up higher and higher.

UY: So you want me to be unemployed?

CB: Yes! If you are unemployed and a youth, you might go back to school. I can then make loads of money on your student debt payments, while all you get in exchange is "better qualified" for a job that isn't there in the first place.

UY: Wow.

CB: Better yet, you may even become depressed because you can't find work to support yourself. I can sell you overpriced drugs to treat this "illness" of being unhappy in a state of permanent joblessness.

UY: Really?

CB: Yes. Maybe you'll be so desperate that you will resort to crime in order to survive. If you get caught, when they lock you up, we'll make loads of money. Prisons are quite profitable, you know, since the government covers most of the costs. Through our various investments, we bankers have countless contracts with the "correctional facilities" across the country, making thousands of dollars for each person who gets put away.

UY: But I need a job!

CB: Well, with no jobs, maybe you can join the military. You can get sent to places like Libya, Iraq or Afghanistan and help secure control of those places for bankers like me. Whenever some government around the world stops doing what me and my banker friends want, we can

send you in to risk your life so we can stay rich and powerful.

UY: But I don't want to be depressed, or in huge debt, or in jail, or getting shot at in some foreign country. What should I do?

CB: That's not my problem. If things ever go bad for me, I've got a cast of hired stooges in Congress who will bail me out with your tax money. They've given trillions to us already, and there is no sign of it stopping.

UY: But isn't there a huge deficit? I've heard the government is spending too much money.

CB: Exactly! That's why we are cutting all the social programs. Schools, food stamps, day care centers, post offices ... as long as they don't cut the Pentagon and keep bailing us out, we bankers are set.

UY: But who's going to bail me out?

CB: Again, not my problem. But whatever you do, stay away from those crazy radicals down at Occupy Wall Street. Especially this new "Occupy 4 Jobs" thing. Me and my buddies in the 1% find it to be kind of scary. □

NO TO 'HATE BILL' 56: Campaign aims to stop attacks on immigrants in Alabama

By Minnie Bruce Pratt
Birmingham, Ala.

An exuberant, determined crowd of more than 3,000 people of diverse nationalities gathered here Nov. 21 to launch a national campaign to turn back Alabama's recently enacted extreme anti-immigrant legislation, known as HB 56. Participants came from all corners of the state — Russellville to Mobile, Oneonta to Montevallo.

The event demonstrated a historic unity between the Black Civil Rights Movement and the struggle for immigrant rights. The rally was held in the evening at the 16th Street Baptist Church, a monument of activism in the Black Civil Rights Movement since the 1963 racist bombing that claimed the lives of four young African-American girls.

Alabama HB 56 — in effect since Sept. 1 — is the harshest of the various state anti-immigrant laws. Among its 30 provisions, the bill makes it a crime to give a ride or provide shelter to undocumented immigrants; prohibits many documented immigrants from attending any public college or university in the state; and requires public school officials to ask children about the legal status of their parents.

The bill was drafted in part by staff associated with the so-called Federation for American Immigration Reform, a group listed as a “nativist hate group” by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The bill's architects in the Alabama Legislature, Rep. Micky Hammon and Sen. Scott Beason, have ties to the construction, forestry and energy industries, and to state retail merchants. Both are endorsed by The Alabama Tea Party Express.

The Nov. 21 rally launched a campaign against the racist law by the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice, under the banner, “Una Familia, Un Alabama” (“One Family, One Alabama”).

The campaign was built to coincide with an 11-person congressional fact-finding investigation about the impact of the anti-immigrant legislation. The investigative hearings were headed by Rep. Luis Gutiérrez (D-Ill.), the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Immigration Taskforce; and by Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.), the first Black woman elected to Congress from Alabama; along with Black, Latino/a, and other congressional representatives from Arizona, California, New York and Texas. (acij.net)

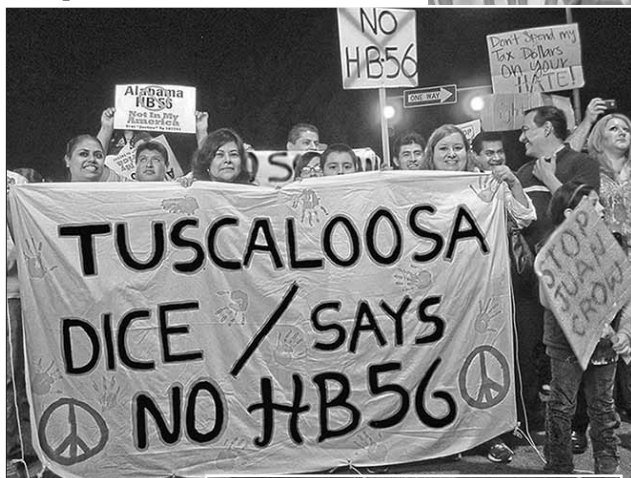
Firsthand oral testimony by immigrants to this ad hoc congressional committee in a meeting at City Hall earlier that day — and to a previous delegation of Black labor leaders on Nov. 17 — reveal what the Southern Poverty Law Center has called “a crisis that harkens back to the bleakest days of [Alabama's] racial history.”

The SPLC says HB 56 has “devastated the immigrant community of Alabama.” (acij.net)

In the week after HB 56 went into effect, 2,000 Latino/a children reportedly stayed away from school and many families fled the state. The Southern Poverty Law Center reports that thousands of calls for help included: A Latino man arrested and detained in jail under HB 56 who was told he could not use the telephone to call a lawyer because using the phone would be a “busi-

A militant crowd of over 3,000 gather on the streets outside the 16th St. Baptist Church for the launch of a national campaign to defeat Alabama HB 56—the most repressive anti-immigrant legislation in the U.S.

WW PHOTOS: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT



Mary Hooks, an organizer for Southerners on New Ground, says “LGBTQ people against HB 56!”

ness transaction” outlawed by HB 56. A woman who went to court for a protective order against domestic violence who was told she would be reported to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A group of Latino workers on a construction job site who were confronted by a group of men with guns threatening to kill them if they were there the following day. (acij.net)

Many Alabama cities are now refusing undocumented workers access to basic services like water, gas and sewage hook-ups; employers cite HB 56 as justification for refusing to pay undocumented workers; documented immigrants have been denied driver's licenses; many undocumented and documented immigrants have been arrested. (acij.net)

‘We will win because we are united!’

The crowd at tonight's rally overflowed the church capacity and thronged in the streets around it.

Thousands in the streets repeatedly broke into chants of “¡Sí, se puede!” (“Yes, we can”) and “Who is Alabama? We are Alabama! ¿Quiénes Alabama? ¡Somos Alabama!”

Organizers from the multinational Alabama Youth Collective, part of a network against the Alabama assault on immigrants, stretched out a huge banner with silhouettes of those resisting. These young people were asking for support for their friends Isaac Barrera and Jonathan Perez, detained by ICE after an immigrant rights demonstration the week before. Group spokesperson Fernanda Marroquin emphasized, “This movement must be led in the streets!” (DREAMactivist.org)

Cries of “¡Sí, se puede!” rang out when legendary Latina organizer-activist Dolores Huerta — the first to use that phrase — spoke of the potentially powerful use

of boycott. She recalled the bus boycott of the Alabama Black Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and the grape boycott of the primarily Chicano and Chicana United Farm Workers in the 1960s, as well as the current boycott of the state of Arizona, called because of its anti-immigrant laws.

Huerta concluded, “We will win because we are united! ¡En la huelga, abajo HB 56!” (“On strike, down with HB 56!”)

Judge U.W. Clemon, Alabama's first African-American federal judge, likened the anti-immigrant law to “the kind of racial oppression we saw half a century ago. We have no choice but to put back on our marching shoes!” Clemon advocated “noncooperation” with the unjust law, in the tradition of Martin Luther King Jr., whom he recalled advocating this tactic from that very same church podium.

Birmingham Mayor William Bell compared HB 56 to apartheid and Jim Crow segregation.

Roderick Royal, the City Council president, vowed: “We will say ‘No’ to every reincarnated George Wallace in the state of Alabama!” Wallace was the Alabama governor in the 1960s who railed, “Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.”

Present also were many veterans of the Black Civil Rights Movement.

Rising resistance to ‘Hate Bill’ 56

Resistance to what some Latino/a demonstrators are calling “Juan Crow” has been rising in the immigrant community. Immigrant workers in Albertville refused to report to work in chicken processing plants in October, virtually shutting down that center of the state's \$2.7 billion poultry industry. The Latino/a community also boycotted the public schools and closed businesses.

Bringing that community resistance to the rally, José Antonio Castro presented a box of 50,000 signatures from a “repeal HB 56” petition. Castro is the director of station programming for WQCR La Jefa, Alabama's only Spanish-language radio station.

Castro collected the signatures during a 14-city walking and broadcast tour dubbed “Ruta 56.” Beginning in Athens in the northern part of the state, he ended at a rally of 500 people against HB 56 in Montgomery on Nov. 19.

Castro handed the box of signed petitions to Alabama state Sen. Billy Beasley, saying: “The voice of the people is heavy.”

Beasley, a sponsor of a proposed bill to repeal HB 56, characterized HB 56 as

the “meanest, most hate-filled, racist law” he had ever seen passed. Beasley noted in a quote in the Oct. 7 Birmingham News that HB 56 was causing workforce shortages in many industries, including agriculture.

Corporate pressure to push back the bill accelerated on Nov. 20, when the HB 56 law was invoked in the arrest of a German Mercedes-Benz executive for driving without his license. The company is mounting a \$289 million expansion at its Vance assembly complex.

Alabama newspaper headlines warned, “Foreign Investment Worries Grow,” and editorials alerted the state's capitalists to the negative impact of HB 56 on Alabama's economy, heavily dependent on manufacturing investment from outside the U.S.

Grass-roots power: ‘Fired up! Ready to go’

The genuine grass-roots power to overturn HB 56 was visible and audible at this rally.

An undocumented 16-year-old high school student spoke of how he crossed the Río Grande River on his father's back when he was three years old, and has lived in Alabama ever since. He said to the crowd, “You in front of me are hope — esperanza! I am not leaving! I am undocumented and unafraid!”

The struggle to repeal HB 56 is a broad-based national action. Speakers at this evening's kickoff rally for the “Una Familia, Un Alabama” campaign included the president of the National Conference on Civil and Human Rights — representing a coalition of 200 organizations, the international executive vice president of the 2.1 million strong Service Employees union, and a senior vice president of the NAACP.

Members of the multinational Occupy Birmingham contingent passed out bilingual leaflets to the crowd outside the church. The leaflets, headlined “Somos El 99%,” announced a protest of HB56 at the ICE Center in Gadsden on Dec. 12.

ACIJ volunteers handed out cards with “Text UNITY to 69866” to receive text messaging alerts about growing opposition to HB 56.

Mary Hooks, an African-American organizer with Southerners on New Ground (SONG), held up a printed protest placard to which she had added her own inked words: “LGBTQ organizer.”

As the rally drew to a close, people began to say farewell — until the next meeting in the struggle. A last speaker announced actions on Dec. 17 and Feb. 7 in Montgomery. The crowd responded in a thunderous chant: “Fired up! Ready to go!” □

IN THE BRONX AND HARLEM

Protests rock post office hearings

By Dee Knight
New York

U.S. Postal Service officials got several earfuls at hearings in the South Bronx and Harlem last week, as the fight to save postal jobs and services escalated. On Nov. 21, about 150 people, including 50 to 60 letter carriers and other postal workers, jammed the auditorium at IS 214, a Bronx public school, to denounce the proposed closing of a major postal station serving that community.

Of the 34 threatened shutdowns in New York, half of them target the Bronx.

The District 12 Parents Association Presidents' Council mobilized along with Bronx Community Board 6 to get people to the hearing, together with the South Bronx Community Congress and local leaders of Chapter 36 of the National Letter Carriers Union. Occupy Bronx was also present, as well as the Bronx Freedom Party and members of teachers' and other public sector unions.

Another factor in the successful mobilization was a People's Video Network film clip distributed on the Internet: <http://tinyurl.com/bsgmrvzz>. In it, postal workers from around the country call for a movement to stop the effort to privatize the postal service, shut down 4,000-plus stations and axe more than 200,000 jobs.

The hearing at IS 214 followed two powerful hearings earlier in November at Co-op City — the largest naturally occurring retirement community in the U.S., with more than 55,000 senior residents. Retired postal workers organized these meetings, each of which drew close to 150 people.

More hearings are slated in the Bronx on Nov. 28, Nov. 29, Dec. 5, Dec. 8 and Dec. 12. Organizers for Community-La-

bor United for Postal Jobs and Services plan to rock all of these hearings.

Mike Eilenfeldt, a delegate to the NYC Central Labor Council and founding organizer of Community-Labor United for Postal Jobs & Services, said, "A movement in the spirit of Rosa Parks is the only thing that can save postal workers and the Postal Service from privatization." His powerful testimony was echoed by numerous postal workers and community members.

Charlie Twist, a Bronx letter carrier, mentioned that the shutdown plans ignore the fact that postal workers already have heavy workloads. The fact that the USPS plans to move postal services to Duane Reade, Staples and CVS stores, and even banks — as stated in a document distributed by the postmaster at the hearing — shows that the shutdown plans are designed to break the union.

Harlem residents say 'occupy'!

The next night, Nov. 22, more than 60 Harlem residents and supporters endured heavy rain to picket outside the very busy Lincolnton postal station, before attending a hearing about shutting the facility down. Inside, they blasted the Manhattan postmaster for ignoring the needs of the community. Johnnie Stevens, leading organizer of Community-Labor United for Postal Jobs & Services, called the closing of post offices racist and a form of gentrification.

A senior Black woman echoed a Lincolnton mail handler's statement that his job for 20 years had been serving the village of Harlem. A woman who came from the South Bronx to attend explained how



At a Nov. 28 hearing, Mike Eilenfeldt declares the location — a Bronx General Post Office closed in October — a 'crime scene.'

PHOTO: ALEX COSS

the shutdown, and other reduced postal services, would dramatically impact very poor residents in these communities. "Prisoners and their loved ones will be hard hit," she said, since many of them send letters back and forth every day, and depend on the postal service as a lifeline. These are some of the people that U.S. Postmaster General Pat Donahoe and his friends on Wall Street simply do not see or care about as they prepare to hack away at people's jobs and much needed services.

The word "occupy" came up often in the Lincolnton hearing — the first to take place inside a postal station. There was a mood to take the movement to stop the attacks on postal services and jobs to a new level. Chants rang out from the picket line: "The post office belongs to the people." Supporters included Occupy Wall Street-en-Español, OWS Prisoners' Caucus, Picture the Homeless and Occupy 4 Jobs, as well as Communication Workers of America Local 1180 and Teamsters Local 808 secretary-treasurer, Chris Silvera.

The same militant mood came across in a resolution from the executive board of the New York Metro Area Postal Union, issued Nov. 15, declaring strong support for Occupy Wall Street. The resolution said, "Postal workers and the public that we serve are fighting to Save America's Postal Service. ... This is just one struggle in a myriad of attacks on working people that Occupy Wall Street has been able to bring into focus so everyone can see."

Chuck Zlatkin, legislative and political director of the New York Metro Area Postal Union, highlighted the federal law governing postal service. U.S. Code 39, Section 101, states: "The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people. ... The Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal services be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities."

Zlatkin noted that congressional mandates in recent years violate this statute, and instead "have used the Postal Service as a cash cow for decades. ... Thousands of post offices, hundreds of mail processing facilities, and hundreds of thousands of living wage jobs are being threatened." According to Zlatkin, "Two independent studies have shown that the USPS has overpaid \$50-75 billion into the Civil Service Retirement System, and has \$42 billion being held hostage in a fund to prepay future retirees' health benefits."

The presidents' councils of both the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers recently called for a large-scale national mobilization of union members and supporters to stop the attack on jobs and services. □

Despite student protests, CUNY raises tuition

By New York WW Bureau

After 15 students were beaten and arrested last week for daring to attend a Nov. 21 hearing of the City University of New York's Board of Trustees where they attempted to tell the board why raising tuition would make their lives much more difficult, 300 students in Students United for a Free CUNY gathered in Madison Square Park on Nov. 28.

There, they spoke bitterly about how hard it was to get an education and how the attacks by CUNY's security forces the previous week weren't designed to preserve order, but to crush dissent and limit the right to free speech to times and places CUNY's administration selects.

The students then marched a few blocks to Baruch College where the Board of Trustees was meeting to pass the tuition increase. In an attempt to further silence free speech, the CUNY administration that day had canceled all classes after 3 p.m. at that campus.

About 150 to 200 faculty and staff, organized by the Professional Staff Con-

gress, were already picketing the board meeting in support of the students, while the Rude Mechanical Orchestra played tunes like "We Shall Not Be Moved" and other civil rights standards.

Some students marched around the neighborhood and others joined the PSC line. At its height, the demonstration had more than 800 protesters.

In the PSC's open letter to CUNY's chancellor, the union pointed out: "It is inconceivable to us as faculty and staff that a college would cancel its primary activity — teaching — on the grounds that doing so will 'ensure the safety of all students, faculty and staff during the period surrounding the meeting of the CUNY Board of Trustees.' ... What creates unsafe conditions is not the presence of peaceful protesters on a college campus, but rather the college's approach to policing."

The board voted to approve a \$300 tuition increase per year for the next five years, amounting to a total increase of 30 percent by the year 2016. Three protesters were arrested. □



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

NYC actions in solidarity with Tahrir Square

Egyptians living in the New York City area and their supporters held demonstrations on Nov. 25 and 26 in solidarity with the young people in Cairo's Tahrir Square who are taking the next step in the Egyptian Revolution and against the ruling military council. The Nov. 25 action targeted Point Lookout Capital Partners, the owner of the majority shares of Combined Systems Inc. of Jamestown,

Pa. CS is the U.S. corporation that manufactures the gas used against the Egyptian protesters. The Nov. 26 demonstration and rally at the Egyptian Mission to the United Nations were highly spirited and included speakers from many Islamic, Egyptian and anti-war organizations. Joyce Chediak, editor of the book "Gaza, Symbol of Resistance," spoke on behalf of Workers World Party.

— Caleb T. Maupin



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Joyce Chediak

EYEWITNESS TAHRIR

Targeting the eyes of the activists

By Muna, a Tahrir activist

The following is excerpted from www.antiimperialista.org.

Ahmed Harara is a close friend of mine. He lost his right eye during the first revolution on 28 January 2011 and four days ago he lost his left eye. He will be forever blind, but he went back into Tahrir Square, right after his operation in the hospital.

In the TV program [tinyurl.com/84gza8g], you will see the

young officer who fired the bullet and you will hear the voice of a shooting officer proudly reporting to his superior that he managed to get another eye ... it was a premeditated campaign ... targeting the eyes of the activists.

But their response is to go back to Tahrir Square, the square of liberation, because a shot eye is better than a broken eye as Ahmed Harara says in the program. They are not blind and they put everyone in front of the necessity to take [a] position; no more lies, no more evasion. □

Egyptian-Israel peace deal, which the U.S. views as central to its domination of the region as a whole. For this reason, while superficially wooing as many forces as it can, it remains somewhat leery of the Moslem Brotherhood. While regarded as a moderate group, the Brotherhood is a fraternal organization to Hamas in Gaza, and could be pushed by the revolution to open the Rafah border with Gaza and break the blockade.

The Brotherhood is expected to make major gains in the elections, though there are no guarantees. It has many resources, is highly organized, and provides social services, food and medicine to the poor in areas where the government does not.

Significance of the elections

Over 50 parties and thousands of individuals are running in the elections. The Nov. 28-29 voting for upper and lower houses of parliament is just the first round in a process that will not be completed until March. Protesters point out that this system presents much opportunity for manipulation by the remnants of Mubarak's old ruling party which is also running for office. For example, ballots cast Nov. 28 and 29 are being counted in central locations and not in the polling places, and the results will not be announced for weeks.

"The elections are a battle, but not the most decisive one," according to Habashi. "The new parliament will be comprised of those who have money — which is not the left, and especially not the left forces formed after the uprising. The forces with money are the Mubarakists, without Mubarak, who are still in power and adapting themselves to the new situation. They are the Egyptian capitalists, with or against the Mubarakists, and also the Islamists, with all of their shadow parties. The next parliament and government will not be able to solve any of the country's problems."

Regarding the struggle in the streets, Habashi explained, "The government created by the next elections will not be the only force with legitimacy. Our task is to create a new legitimacy, a parallel and revolutionary legitimacy."

Egypt's rulers, military or civilian, have made no significant changes that affect the lives of the Egyptian people. The middle-class and working-class youth, who have shown great bravery and steadfastness in the streets, continue to occupy Tahrir Square. Workers and the rural poor, 40 percent of whom lived on \$2 a day before, now have even less in the disrupted economy. "This is a revolution of the hungry!" is a chant heard more and more.

The large election turnout shows that the people feel they have a right to participate in government and to have their basic needs met.

Under these circumstances, the struggle is bound to continue. □

New phase of Egypt's revolution

Masses say: No military rule

Continued from page 1

to justice Mubarak regime leaders, including Mubarak himself.

SCAF changed the name of the security apparatus, but not the people who run it. Protesters note that only when they come out on the streets has the military government made any concessions.

Demonstrators' rage at and disillusion with the military grew as joint military police forces repeatedly ambushed protesters, including the wounded in field hospitals and those in prayer. On Nov. 22, when SCAF head Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi promised the end of military rule by June and for elections to proceed as scheduled, he was booed in Tahrir Square and greeted with the same chant that had been aimed at Mubarak in February: "You leave, we're staying!"

Almost all Egypt's political groups except the Moslem Brotherhood joined the demonstrations and demanded the immediate ouster of the military council and its replacement with an interim civilian presidential council.

The Brotherhood, fearing that the volatile situation in the streets might lead to cancellation of the elections, pulled out of the demonstrations and struck a separate deal with the military over the heads of the demonstrators. It agreed to support the rule of the military until June. The military government in turn agreed to let

the elections proceed as planned on Nov. 28, while moving up the presidential vote to June from 2013. This earlier timetable allows the Brotherhood to capitalize on its vast organizational lead.

This move, which significantly lessened the clout of the protests, lost the Brotherhood credibility at Tahrir Square. Many Brotherhood youth openly defied their leaders and joined the protests to help protect them from unrelenting police and military attacks.

Class character of the Egyptian military

Ten months ago, the Egyptian people put their faith in a military which they saw as their defender against the Mubarak regime and its hated police. While the military eased Mubarak out, and did not itself fire on protesters, hidden from the demonstrators was the class character of the Egyptian military as the major force which kept Mubarak and Egypt's rulers in power for 30 years. SCAR head Tantawi was Mubarak's defense minister for 20 years.

The demonstrators are now beginning to see that the military is the organized violence of Egypt's elite.

Mamdouh Habashi, a founding member of the newly formed Egyptian Socialist Party, pointed out: "These generals are actually part of the ruling class, and own factories and large parcels of land." (greenleft.org, Oct. 30) He explained that

part of the \$1.3 billion the Pentagon gives the military yearly goes directly to the generals without any oversight.

"Thanks to the United States," Habashi continued, "we have quite a big part of the economy ruled by the army leadership. Their task now is not defending the country, but operating in the building industry, agriculture, tourism industry; they are involved in every sector. They have become a part of the ruling class. Their goal is keeping as much as possible of the old structures."

There are other class forces in the military. Many low-ranking officers oppose the generals' corruption and profiteering. Tens of thousands of working-class draftees, often the sole supporters of extended families, are wholly sympathetic to the demands of the people. But there are no signs to date of any split in the ranks of the military. And it is the generals who are giving the orders.

U.S. maneuvers to protect interests

Washington is trying to position itself so regardless of who wins in Egypt, it will be able to keep Egypt in the pro-imperialist camp. This is why on Nov. 25 President Barack Obama issued a call for the Egyptian military to quickly hand over power to a civilian elected government. The statement was made at 3 a.m. U.S. time to precede a major demonstration in Tahrir Square. Also publicized was U.S. Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta's call to Tantawi urging "restraint."

The corporate-owned media are not mentioning that the highest-ranking Egyptian officers were trained by the Pentagon and get many of their orders from there. The U.S. government considers the Egyptian military its lynchpin in securing and defending Wall Street's interests in the Middle East. Egypt's military rulers are often in daily contact with U.S. generals.

Washington cares nothing for the Egyptian people or for democratic rule. It wants Egypt to continue to uphold the



Joyce Chediak

GAZA: Symbol of Resistance

A book of articles from WW, edited by Joyce Chediak

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AFRICA 2011:

PART
1

Year of mass upheaval, imperialist interventions

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Dec. 17 marks the anniversary of a year of uprisings, strikes, government resignations and regime change on the African continent. A resource-rich and strategically located geopolitical region, Africa has experienced numerous mass demonstrations, general strikes, rebellions and full-scale military assaults as part of a heightening global class struggle for control of the continent's economic and political future.

In the North African state of Tunisia, 26-year-old Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire on Dec. 17, 2010, after his vending business was shut down by the authorities in the city of Sidi Bouzid, purportedly because he did not have a license to sell on the street. This act of self-immolation led to mass demonstrations in the Western-backed state that eventually engulfed large sections of the country.

The demonstrations in Tunisia led to the resignation of longtime political leader Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on Jan. 14. President Ben Ali, who had headed the state for 24 years under the Rally for Constitutional Democracy ruling party, fled the country and is reported to have taken refuge in Saudi Arabia.

After continuing demonstrations and political debate, an election was held in late October. The majority of the votes went to the moderate Islamic party Ennahda, headed by Rachid Ghannouchi. Ghannouchi had lived in exile for many years and is considered a leading Islamic scholar in the region.

A Dec. 2 deadline has been set for the formation of a new government in Tunisia. The majority of the new ministries will be filled by members of the Ennahda and the secular center-left Congress for the Republic and Ettakatol parties. It is anticipated that the Ennahda secretary-general, Hamadi Jebali, will be the next prime minister.

According to Tunisia-live.net, "The key Ministries, namely those of Interior, Foreign Affairs, and that of Justice, are expected to be taken charge of by members of Ennahda. The moderate Islamic party actually insists that the Prime Minister be chosen among members of the party that

disposes of the biggest number of seats — a request that has met vivid opposition among CPR and Ettakatol commissions." (Nov. 27)

Left parties in Tunisia have participated in the new political situation by emerging as organizations that are allowed to operate openly. Most of the left organizations had been forced underground since the 1980s, when the Tunisian Communist Worker's Party (PCOT) was formed.

At least a dozen other left formations have attempted to organize inside the country, and some of the groups have merged and formed coalitions to strengthen their ranks. The Revolutionary Communist Organization has reorganized itself as the Left Workers League (Ligue de la gauche ouvrière). Two Maoist groups, the Party of the Patriotic Democrats and the Movement of Patriotic Democrats, held a unification conference in April after the fall of Ben Ali.

PCOT is perhaps the most well-known of the left parties in Tunisia. Its leader, Hamma Hammami, spent years in prison under the RCD government. The PCOT won three seats in the new Constituent Assembly.

A center-left formation, the Progressive Democratic Party, led by the only significant woman in Tunisian politics, Maya Jribi, was expected to come in second in the national elections but instead landed in fourth place. Jribi said that the PDP would continue as an opposition party.

Tunisia's trade union federation, the UGTT, played a significant role in the demonstrations that led to the fall of Ben Ali. However, its role in the future political dispensation of the country still remains to be seen.

Egypt erupts on eve of national elections

On Nov. 19, thousands of youth entered Cairo's Tahrir Square to protest the desire of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to remain in charge of the political transition process in the North African state of Egypt. Tahrir Square was the center of nationwide demonstrations that began on Jan. 25 and resulted in the resignation of longtime U.S.-backed dictator president, Hosni Mubarak.

Since the Mubarak government collapse, revolutionary democratic forces have held consistent demonstrations

claiming that the struggle was being subverted by the role of the Supreme Military Council. The character of Egyptian foreign policy in relation to a peace treaty with the state of Israel has also been a major source of anger and frustration among broad sectors of the population.

Elections for parliamentary seats began on Nov. 28 with long lines in the capital of Cairo, where voters complained of delays of up to four hours. The SCAF insisted that the elections go forward despite eight days of mass demonstrations that preceded the elections and resulted in the deaths of more than 40 people.

Most political analysts predict that the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party will win the majority of seats in the new parliament. The Brotherhood was split over participation in the recent demonstrations. However, despite the absence of the official parent body, youth members did play a leading role.

The New York Times reported, "At some polling places, teams of Brotherhood members wearing the insignia of the Freedom and Justice Party were on hand to help maintain security, and they could be seen performing services like escorting elderly women to specially designated lines." Although large sections of the population appear to have gravitated to the election process amid mass demonstrations demanding the liquidation of ultimate political control by the SCAF, Field Marshal General Mohamed Hussein Tantawi declared on Nov. 27 that "the position of the armed forces will remain as it is — it will not change in any new constitution." (Nov. 28)

Another North African state that experienced mass demonstrations over the last year, Morocco, recently held a nationwide election in which a moderate Islamist Party came out victoriously. The Justice and Development Party (PJD) won 107 seats out of 395. King Mohammed VI must therefore select the next prime minister from the ranks of the PJD.

The Istiqlal Party, a decades-long opponent of the monarchy, finished second with 60 seats won. The Socialist Union of Popular Forces had formed an alliance with the Party of Progress and Socialism, and consequently won 30 seats in the new parliament.

Economic crisis underlies political turmoil in No. Africa

The political developments in North Africa are not taking place in a vacuum. The uprisings are a response to massive unemployment and poverty. In Tunisia and Egypt, unemployment is extremely high, and the neocolonialist relationship of both countries with the imperialist states has failed to provide any benefits for the majority of the population.

In Morocco, the situation is quite similar and will in all likelihood continue, in the face of the failure of the left to win a dominant position within the new political arrangements. At the same time, the role of the U.S. military in Egypt and Morocco will continue to be an impediment to the social development of the region.

With the overthrow of the Moammar Gadhafi government in Libya, the U.S.'s Africa Command (Africom) has been emboldened. The stage is set for greater exploitation of the resources of the region. Despite these changes, the situation will remain unstable and volatile.

Recently, the Tunisian government was forced to cancel flights to Libya due to threats posed by the armed "rebel" groups, which were sponsored by the U.S. and NATO in the toppling of the government in Tripoli. The capture and killing of Gadhafi and four of his sons will ensure the continuation of conflict inside of Libya, which has Africa's largest known oil reserves.

Even the Wall Street Journal admitted, in relationship to Egypt, that "the turbulent protests that ousted President Hosni Mubarak scared off tourists and foreign investors alike. And the new military leadership, which reversed many of the economic liberalization gains in favor of populist policies intended to boost social stability, did little to instill new confidence." (Nov. 28)

The worsening of the economic crisis in numerous European countries and the U.S. will continue to send shock waves into North Africa and the Middle East. Only the popular organization of the masses of workers, youth and farmers and the formation of governments that serve their interests can provide the possibility of an economic reversal and foster genuine security, stability and development.

To be continued.

General strike in Portugal

European workers resist bankers' takeover

By John Catalinotto

More than 3 million workers in Portugal walked off the job on Nov. 24 to protest austerity measures and the takeover of their country's economy by the "Troika" — the European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This has been done with the collusion of the big Portuguese capitalists and their political parties.

The general strike stopped public transport — as well as 600 airplane flights — and shut factories all over the country. Tens of thousands of people marched in Lisbon and other cities as part of the worker action. Spokespeople for the CGTP-IN, the main union confederation behind the strike, called it the largest general strike ever in this country of 11 million people.

The CGTP-IN said that workers' actions will continue in the weeks ahead. (cgtp.pt)

A center-right, Peoples Party/Social Democratic Party bloc recently took over the government from the misnamed Socialist Party — which had also been carrying out austerity measures. All the above parties supported the deal with the Troika that is supposed to bring a \$100 billion bailout of Portugal's debt. In return, the government is imposing an extremely anti-worker austerity program, which includes job cuts and tax increases.

The Portuguese Communist

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PHOTO: JORGE CABRAL, AVANTE

Imperialist hands off Syria!

The threat of a new imperialist intervention in Western Asia, aimed at seizing and controlling the resources of this energy-rich region, grows daily. The newest target of this land and resource grab is the Syrian Arab Republic.

Such an intervention is a threat to the well-being of the 23 million Syrian people. It also threatens the organizations that at this time best represent the masses of Lebanese and Palestinian people. In addition, it opens the door to the imperialists and to the Israeli expansionist state for aggression against Iran, and threatens an even more horrendous war in the region.

The latest news is a stab in the back to the Syrian people from the so-called Arab League in this mostly Arab region, which is also home to Kurds and smaller minority ethnic groups. So-called, because the 19 regimes that voted on Nov. 27 for unprecedented sanctions against Syria and its people are the furthest thing from true representatives of the Arab and other masses in the region. They instead represent, in most cases, the 1 percent of the 1 percent — whose wealth comes from a cut of the profits of the energy resources and who are completely dependent on their close and subservient relations with world imperialism to keep their hands on the power of the local states.

The hypocrisy especially of Arab League members such as Saudi Arabia, the six Gulf kingdoms and emirates is boundless. These states have cooperated in the bloody suppression of the popular revolt in Bahrain and the police repression of their own people. Added to them are the Egyptian military regime currently gassing and shooting young people in Tahrir Square; the Yemeni regime battling a popular revolt for the past eight months; along with the new puppet Libyan regime.

The Turkish regime, with Turkey a NATO

member, has seconded the Arab League sanctions, bringing the region one step closer to war.

Only last March an Arab League vote opened the door to U.S.-NATO's eight months of terror bombing and puppet invasion of Libya that destroyed that country's sovereign state and infrastructure, killed tens of thousands of people and opened up the country to raw and unrestricted imperialist pillage. The new "deals" announced between Libyan puppets and European and U.S.-based corporations have exposed the phony "humanitarian" intervention in Libya as a 21st-century replay of 19th-century colonialism.

It is telling that President Nicolas Sarkozy of France preceded the Arab League's vote by demanding "humanitarian corridors" in Syria to allow untrammelled imperialist penetration to the centers of opposition to the Syrian government. Disguised as a mission to bring "humanitarian" aid, such corridors would allow — at a minimum — a free introduction of arms to promote a civil war within Syria. It was Sarkozy who opened the military assault on Libya last March, with French imperialism getting the full backing of Washington and the logistic and technological support in destruction that only the Pentagon can provide.

There is no way that an imperialist intervention can create a situation where the Syrian people can independently decide the nature of their government and state.

For anti-imperialists and progressives in Europe and North America, the first duty in any situation of civil conflict in a developing country like Syria is to stop the imperialist intervention. That means to oppose any imperialist aggression against Syria, whatever form it takes.

No imperialist sanctions against Syria!
No NATO intervention in the region!
U.S., Europe, out of the Middle East! □

Pakistan's dilemma

The NATO imperialists, chief among them the U.S., showed their desperation when they attacked Pakistani soldiers on Nov. 26, killing more than two dozen. Helicopters and fighter jets of the Western military alliance, representing countries that once held most of the world as their outright colonies, flew over the border from bases in Afghanistan to carry out this unabashed act of war.

After some half-hearted apologies from Washington, the Pentagon brass announced they would investigate the incident. That reassured no one. Anti-U.S. demonstrations are continuing in Pakistan.

The U.S. has leaned heavily on Pakistan's civilian and military authorities for a long time. It wants them to police the region and eradicate any forces hostile to U.S.-corporate domination of that part of the world. Under both military dictators like Gen. Zia-ul-Haq and civilian presidents like Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani military received huge amounts of money from the U.S. In return, it has usually done Washington's bidding.

General Zia was a major U.S. ally in the CIA war that brought down a progressive secular government in Afghanistan. At that time, in the 1980s, the U.S. spent billions to recruit, equip and train a covert army in Afghanistan. This army enlisted some of the same Islamic forces, like the Taliban and al-Qaeda, which are now fighting against the Pentagon.

President Benazir Bhutto, again under U.S. pressure, sent Pakistani troops to guard sites in Saudi Arabia during the 1991 Gulf War. Thus the Pentagon expects to get Pakistan to once again do its dirty work in exchange for more money and weapons to keep the military on top there.

Instead, the Pentagon is finding it more and more difficult to get what they want, even after sending drones and Special Forces into Pakistan to rain missiles and bombs on villages near the Afghan border and now actually bombing a group of Pakistani soldiers.

This attack is a clear violation of Pakistan's sovereignty, but it is also a sign of imperialism's weakening hold on the world. The U.S. can wage wars — it is engaged in many right now, from Afghanistan to Libya to Somalia — and do terrible damage, but it cannot subdue the people by military means alone. If the U.S. can't win the war in Afghanistan, one of the poorest and least-developed countries in the world, how can it hope to hold onto its far-flung empire?

Not by military might alone could European and U.S. capitalists become de facto rulers over billions of people during the time of the dynamic growth of capitalism and its revolutionary development of the means of production. It was the cheap commodities of the industrial era, as Karl Marx pointed out, that made it possible for the armies and navies of the West — and for a while Japan — to batter down the Chinese walls and turn great countries into their vassals.

That was then. Today the financial crises originating in Europe and Wall Street are dragging the economies of the whole world down — and people everywhere know it. Even bourgeois governments like that in Pakistan, with a long history of accepting the role of imperialism's regional junior "partner," must put up some resistance to the Pentagon if it is to have any credibility at home. And with each new military atrocity, the U.S. ruling class only deepens the dilemma of those it needs to be its puppets. □

Cindy Sheehan raises struggle to free Cuban Five

By Cheryl LaBash
Holguín, Cuba

The 7th International Colloquium for the freedom of the Cuban Five concluded in this eastern Cuban city on Nov. 19. Representatives from international committees that have mobilized parliaments, unions, Nobel laureates and millions over the past 13 years of unjust U.S. incarceration of these five heroic Cuban men planned the next phase in a week of events.

Offering a moving pledge for renewed U.S. mobilization and confidence that such an effort will free them, noted U.S. anti-war and social justice activist, Cindy Sheehan, presented a treasured necklace given to her by her son Casey, who was slain in Iraq, to the mothers of the Cuban Five. The necklace will be returned to Sheehan when the Five return home to their mothers, families and the Cuban people, who steadfastly demand justice from the U.S. government and the Obama administration.

According to *ahora.cu*, "Mirtha Rodríguez, the mother of Antonio Guerrero, said that the gesture was full of love and hope, and demonstrates the great commitment of the U.S. mother and peace activist to carry on the struggle to raise awareness about the case of the Five in a country that has built a wall of silence around the case."

The Cuban Five — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero and René González — gathered information on the Florida based paramilitary operations responsible for the deaths of more than 3,000 Cuban and other civilians, including the first midair bombing of a civilian aircraft

and the bombing of tourist hotels. On Oct. 6, 1976, Cubana 455 exploded on takeoff from Barbados, killing all 73 people aboard.

Although René González was officially released from prison in October, he is required to serve an additional three years of supervised release in Florida. The U.S. government even continues to deny his spouse, Olga Salanueva, an entry visa to visit him during this time.

A post-conviction habeas corpus appeal has been filed for Hernández, who is still sentenced to two life terms plus 15 years and denied any visitation from his spouse, Adriana Pérez. Both Pérez and Salanueva participated in the Holguín Colloquium. Hernández's appeal is based on admitted attorney misconduct and information that prominent journalists who poisoned the airwaves in Miami sensationalizing the trial were paid by the U.S. government for the same sort of coverage! Habeas appeals for Labañino, González and Guerrero also cite the government-employed journalists.

More than 300 delegates from 47 countries adopted a final declaration outlining new actions: a massive international letter campaign to U.S. President Barack Obama; mobilization of religious institutions in the U.S. and around the world to support the call for freedom for the Cuban Five; the adoption of June 8, 2012 — the anniversary of the unjust guilty verdict against the five men — as a day of protest and mobilization; and a call for young people to organize concerts from Sept. 12 to Oct. 6, the Days of the Victims of State Terrorism, to raise awareness about the case of the Five. □

From Cap-Haïtien to Port-au-Prince

Haitians struggle against misery

By G. Dunkel

The battle of Vertières, a major victory in the Haitian people's struggle against racism, colonialism and enslavement, has been commemorated for 208 years on Nov. 18 at the battle site overlooking the city of Cap-Haïtien, a large city in northern Haiti. Typically, the president of Haiti and elected officials, such as senators and deputies, attend the traditional pomp and ceremony of the commemoration.

This year, President Michel Martelly held it in Port-au-Prince in front of 500 people. Some of the right-wing Haitian press, like *Le Matin*, implied the change of venue was a slight to the northern political establishment of Haiti.

But the people of Cap-Haïtien are known for their feisty, confrontational approach to politics. And like most Haitians, they see Minustah — the U.N. force occupying Haiti and carriers of the cholera that has killed more than 7,000 Haitians and sickened more than 700,000 — as the force that protects the system that keeps them in misery. Minustah

took over occupying Haiti from the U.S. and France in 2004.

In the midst of thousands of people assembled in Vertières, hundreds of protesters came with a big banner reading, "Down with Minustah!" They made their feeling known that this celebration should not take place while Haiti is occupied. In place of the normal patriotic decorations, they covered the walls of the square with slogans: "Minustah = cholera!" and "Bill Clinton + Interim Haiti Recovery Commission = occupation." The IHRC controls the disbursement of aid to Haiti; Clinton is its chair. Some of the protesters came from a large, Caribbean-wide conference to build opposition to the U.N.'s occupation of Haiti. (Haïti-Liberté, Nov. 23)

The Movement for Liberty, Equality and Fraternity for all Haitians (Moleghaf — derived from its name in Creole) held a militant march of a few hundred from Fort National, a very poor, working-class community in Port-au-Prince, to the Ministry of Social Affairs. The marchers demanded

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WISCONSIN:

Lighting the fires of class struggle

Excerpts from a talk given by WWP organizer in Wisconsin, Bryan G. Pfeifer, at the Workers World Party National Conference on Oct. 8-9 in New York City.

Propelled by unrelenting exploitation and oppression by the ruling class, Gov. Scott Walker's union-busting bill that was being pushed by finance capital, and inspired by the Egyptian people's uprising, Wisconsin's working class and oppressed began their weeks-long occupation and protests at the state Capitol in Madison on Feb. 14.

Workers World Party was there as the occupation began to take shape, and tens of thousands joined the largest student-worker occupation in this country in decades. The unions took center stage. For the first time in a long time, they were looked to by the masses for leadership and direction. Youth, students and organizations such as Voces de la Frontera took a decisive leadership role, allied with the unions and community organizations. The skills and experience gathered will be a boon for our class.

Ushering in a new period of resistance in the U.S., the world watched the power of our class — over the Internet — as youth and students, workers and the oppressed slept on marble floors, rallied daily and flocked to the capitol battlefield for weeks.

The Occupy Wall Street Movement is as inspired by the Wisconsin people's uprising as the Wisconsin people were inspired by the Egyptian people.

Poor and working people worldwide swelled with joy and pride as their sisters and brothers in Wisconsin brought international resistance to the racist, imperialist U.S. The exemplary self-sacrifice of the masses, the firefighters, the youth and students, the workers and oppressed were on full display. "Fight like an Egyptian" echoed throughout the Capitol.

Pushing forward despite challenges

In alliance with all workers and oppressed, the Wisconsin masses are pushing forward the struggle despite challenges and repressive state attacks.

Despite the qualitative leap in mass consciousness and positive advances, the Wisconsin people's struggle is challenged by a void of class consciousness. This includes the Democrats and labor lieutenants co-opting, derailing or muting various forms of struggle, helping to quash the potential for a general strike, not understanding low-wage capitalism, not running working-class candidates for office after the successful recalls, and not understanding the role of the repressive state apparatus under capitalism.

Another major challenge is that more privileged members of our class within unions aren't prioritizing reaching out to and supporting Black and Latino/a people in Milwaukee. As finance capital

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an end to hunger, unemployment, misery, rotten housing and generally horrible living conditions — including no clean water, sanitation or school for children.

A few days later, they held a picket line at the ministry — one in a series of protests that began 10 months ago. In October, there were a number of arrests there.

These actions show a willingness of Haitian progressives to take on the state and the U.N.'s occupation, and raise issues of direct relevance to the masses of Haitians. □



Bryan G. Pfeifer

WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

and its politicians' attacks on public sector unions are anti-women and racist, the unions must defend these specially oppressed sectors of the working class.

Workers World Party's former Chairperson Sam Marcy and comrade Dottie Ballan always asked what is in the interests of the world revolutionary struggle and what is in the interests of uniting all the revolutionary and progressive forces? Solidarity is important. Comrade Sam emphasized that unity between white and other workers and the oppressed of all nationalities must be achieved for victory in day-to-day class struggles and for a successful socialist revolution.

WWP's approach to the Wisconsin people's uprising is to support the workers and the oppressed who are in motion. Revolutionary theory goes hand-in-hand with revolutionary practice.

The Wisconsin people's uprising and the Occupy Wall Street Movement are qualitative advances against capitalist bosses and bankers. We aren't bystanders or mere sympathizers in this global class struggle. We understood that a people's victory in Wisconsin would be a victory for the world's working class and oppressed. We gave whatever support we could — to learn from this struggle and to influence it in a more anti-racist, class-conscious and socialist direction.

We had to win the confidence and respect of the masses to do outreach and recruitment for the party and to reestablish a branch in Milwaukee and possibly



Madison, Wisconsin, Nov 19.

WW PHOTO: BRYAN G. PFEIFER

elsewhere in Wisconsin. Our party had to make the masses' struggle our struggle. We've done that. We have had to work with all progressive and revolutionary forces on all issues and work to build socialist unity.

We sacrificed our resources and ourselves. Two dozen of our cadres have been in Wisconsin at various times since February. They have gathered WW newspaper subscriptions, gone on speaking tours, attended demonstrations, held discussions especially in Milwaukee's Black and Latino/a communities, and distributed countless leaflets. We played a decisive role in defeating the Sept. 3 Nazi recruitment rally in West Allis. We support Wisconsin's Occupy Wall Street movement and many mass struggles. We need more cadres.

In Wisconsin, across the U.S. and internationally, we can't undo the horrors of capitalist-imperialism without revolutionary Marxist-Leninist theory and practice. For the sake of humanity and the planet, we must put capitalist-imperialism into the dustbin of history where it belongs. □



See www.workers.org/books/ for the pamphlet "Wisconsin: Lighting the Fires of Class Struggle."

General strike in Portugal

European workers resist bankers' takeover

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Party and the Left Bloc opposed the deal.

The new government cut the current end-of-year bonuses in half for all workers and completely cancelled holiday and year-end bonuses for civil servants in 2012. Health services, too, are being cut. It has extended the working day by half an hour.

As a result of the ongoing capitalist crisis that began in 2008 and the cuts already made in government and social programs, the country is in its biggest recession in more than three decades. Unemployment plus underemployment now reaches 18.2 percent of the work force. Despite the deal, Fitch Ratings, the smallest of the "big three" credit rating firms, cut its rating of Portuguese bonds to the level of junk bonds on Nov. 24.

One banner in Lisbon read: "Only the struggle can give us what they're about to take away." Many read, "Oppose exploitation and impoverishment" and "The struggle continues." (PCP photos) Reuters reported that one favorite chant

was, "Spain, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, our struggle is international!"

Bankers' regimes in Europe

The virtual bank takeover of many European governments indicates the importance of that last chant. In November, handpicked bank "technocrats," relatively unknown as politicians, replaced the flamboyant right-wing billionaire prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, in Italy and the third-generation premier, George Papandreou, in Greece. In Portugal and more recently in Spain, center-right governments even more tightly linked to the banks replaced nominally center-left premiers — who had also carried out austerity, but at a slower pace.

In Greece, the workers of Hellenic Steel Co. in Aspropyrgos, a suburb of Athens, have been on strike since Nov. 1. They are demanding the immediate rehiring of 34 of their co-workers who had been dismissed. In a resolution, they called on the working class and all poor people to support them with whatever available form of

solidarity. (inter.kke.gr) The major Greek union confederation, PAME, close to the Communist Party of Greece (KKE), has held regular general strikes.

In Spain, six columns of marchers representing the "indignant ones," whose movement began last May, began marching downtown from different neighborhoods in Madrid on Nov. 28, weaving their way to Neptune Plaza in front of the Congress of Deputies. There, 2,000 people called for an end to layoffs, job insecurity, cutbacks and the privatization of public services. They agitated for the holding of a general strike.

The inability of capitalism to recover from this systemwide crisis that exploded in 2008 and is now erupting for a second time in Europe has threatened the living conditions of the European working class, striking first those countries with weaker economies. This renews the need for the internationalist sentiment contained in the banner the KKE hung from the Acropolis in Athens a year ago: "Peoples of Europe, rise up!" □

AMENAZA DE GUERRA IMPERIALISTA: ¿Cómo debe reaccionar el movimiento de Ocupación?

Extractos de una charla que la miembro del Secretariado del Partido Workers World –Mundo Obrero, Sara Flounders dio en la Conferencia Nacional de WWP/PMO el 8-9 octubre en la ciudad de Nueva York.

Hay momentos únicos en la historia cuando la conciencia del pueblo se convierte en una fuerza material, una fuerza explosiva y hasta revolucionaria. Lo que por mucho tiempo se aceptaba, de repente se vuelve intolerable.

Es por eso que nuestro partido obrero revolucionario existe en los EE.UU. Siempre consideramos cómo impulsar y ayudar a crecer un movimiento emergente en la dirección del cambio revolucionario. Nos centramos en cómo involucrar a los sectores más oprimidos. Estos serán la fuerza más determinante, porque son quienes tienen más que ganar en el cambio.

Después de años de pasividad frente al implacable ataque contra la vida de los/as trabajadores/as estadounidenses, sus trabajos, hogares y su futuro, ahora hay el comienzo de una respuesta. Millones de personas están tomando conciencia de que el capitalismo no tiene soluciones ni empleos, y no se ve recuperación en el horizonte.

La guerra imperialista es un peligro para el nuevo movimiento Ocupación de Wall Street. El racismo y la derecha reaccionaria que acompañan a todas las guerras imperialistas son la mayor amenaza para todos los movimientos progresistas y todos los logros que los y las trabajadoras han obtenido en sus luchas. La guerra es el arma que la burguesía utiliza para destruir la conciencia de clase y permitir que la reacción y el miedo se afiancen.

Las guerras imperialistas desde el 11 de septiembre reforzaron las fuerzas de la reacción política y la represión. La co-



Sara Flounders

FOTO: WORKERS.TV

ordinación de la Seguridad Nacional, el FBI, la CIA y de Inmigración y Aduanas junto con el cuerpo policial, ha resultado en entrampas, intimidación, redadas y deportaciones. Ello pondrá en peligro al movimiento OWS (Ocupación de Wall Street) como ya ha amenazado a la gente de color, especialmente a los/as inmigrantes, musulmanes/as y a los/as activistas políticos/as y anti-guerra.

En este nuevo movimiento, la política y las demandas adquieren una gran importancia. Hemos contribuido elevando la campaña “Alto a la ejecución racista de Troy Davis” y moviendo las manifestaciones contra la guerra a Wall Street con consignas como “Wall Street = War Street (calle de guerra)” y “Necesitamos empleos, no guerra ni racismo”. El racismo y la guerra son la esencia del capitalismo.

La clase dominante — la burguesía, los dueños del capital — tiene siglos de experiencia en la destrucción de la conciencia de clase y cambiando de ruta las demandas de los/as trabajadores/as hacia canales que no desafían su propiedad total en la sociedad. Su objetivo es conducir los movimientos hacia canales electora-

les seguros; y son muy sofisticados en el uso del racismo y la reacción para dividir y desorientar a un sector de la población.

Las guerras imperialistas son una daga apuntando al movimiento aquí. Las guerras tienen la intención — y han tenido éxito en el pasado — de dividir e incluso provocar un colapso de los movimientos de los/as trabajadores/as.

Las recientes guerras imperialistas de EE.UU. han resultado en fracasos espectaculares y no han reposicionado el poder estadounidense. Después de 10 años en Afganistán, la posición de EE.UU. se está agravando. Las armas más poderosas en la historia no han prevalecido contra uno de los países más pobres y menos desarrollados del mundo.

La guerra de EE.UU./OTAN en Libia fue un desesperado intento de hacer retroceder a las revoluciones de Egipto y Túnez y moverse agresivamente en África. El colapso inmediato se predijo para Libia, pero la heroica resistencia duró siete meses enfrentando el bombardeo y la destrucción inimaginable por EE.UU./OTAN dirigidos contra la infraestructura civil.

El imperialismo estadounidense impulsa la guerra, y no se puede prescindir de ésta, a pesar de que los imperialistas son menos capaces de prevalecer. Su incapacidad para revertir el deterioro de su posición global impulsará a estos depredadores hacia aventuras más amplias. No sabemos si la próxima guerra será contra Siria, Irán, Sudán, Corea, Venezuela o China.

En el centro de este imperio que tiene tentáculos en todo el mundo, tenemos que ayudar a este nuevo movimiento para que desarrolle un reflejo automático a la propaganda de guerra imperialista, y no creer en la satanización racista que se utiliza para justificar una guerra o la mención de la de-

mocracia o la “intervención humanitaria”.

Educar al movimiento

Hay muchos/as activistas políticos que creen, se confunden y se desorientan, repitiendo lo que dicen los medios corporativos. Debemos educar a este movimiento para que se centre en el atroz crimen cometido por la gigante máquina de muerte del Pentágono y se niegue a aceptar cualquier justificación para el ataque.

Los/as activistas deben rechazar cualquier ataque racista, ya sea en respuesta a una guerra imperialista de agresión o de un linchamiento, un ataque de la policía en una comunidad oprimida o el ataque empresarial contra un sindicato. Nadie debe unirse a una campaña de difamación orquestada que culpa a las víctimas.

Hay que estar firmes en la solidaridad con todos los pueblos oprimidos que están bajo ataque. Ese debe ser el ABC.

Si los medios corporativos estadounidenses, la Casa Blanca o el Departamento de Estado alaban una lucha, un líder o un movimiento como fuerza libertadora y afirman que es una lucha por la democracia, hay que sospechar. Estos sólo quieren la dominación corporativa.

Incluso cuando estemos en desacuerdo con algunas políticas de un régimen al que EE.UU. tiene como objetivo, debemos rechazar las falsas justificaciones de su participación.

El mundo entero está observando lo que está pasando en Wall Street y en otras ciudades de los EE.UU. Nuestro partido puede contribuir mucho basado en nuestra experiencia obtenidas en las luchas pasadas y en nuestro conocimiento del sistema capitalista internacional.

Hagamos todo lo posible para construir y defender este nuevo movimiento. □

Las mujeres hablan en Ocupar Wall Street

El movimiento de Ocupar Wall Street en Parque Zuccotti en la Ciudad de Nueva York oyó las voces formidables de mujeres activistas, la mayoría de ellas inmigrantes de Latinoamérica, en una asamblea organizada el 20 de noviembre por una coalición amplia convocada por las Trabajadoras por la Paz y La Peña del Bronx.

La asamblea se enfocó en la epidemia de violencia, incluyendo la violencia doméstica, contra mujeres que es endémica en la sociedad capitalista mundial. Traducido al español y al inglés, la asamblea mostró una gran solidaridad con Ocupar Wall Street. La confrontación con la creciente represión de la policía y el estado no ha parado a OWS de abrir un espacio político importante para mujeres, especialmente aquellas que han sido afectadas por el impacto de la crisis capitalista económica global, y cuestiones de interés especial para las mujeres como empleos, deportaciones, cuidado de niños/as, cuidado de salud, vivienda, educación, racismo, sexismo, guerra y ocupación, entre otras.

Algunas de las oradoras en la asamblea fueron Nieves Ayress, una activista chilena y fundadora de La Peña; Lucy Pagoada, una maestra en el sistema de educación pública de Nueva York y miembro del Frente Nacional de Resistencia Popular de Honduras; y Mónica Moorehead, representante de la Red de Mujeres en Lucha y la Alianza Internacional de Mujeres.



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